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5 JUL 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

THROUGH   :   Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT   :   Support Directorate Information Processing

1. The Chairman of the Information Processing Board suggested in his recent survey of Agency information processing that the SIPS Task Force was coming toward the end of its useful life and that it would probably be disbanded. I recognize this suggestion as one alternative for the future management of Support Directorate information processing. It is not the alternative I am prepared to support at this time.

2. SIPS is an open-ended, evolutionary activity. I foresee a constant, albeit smaller effort devoted to developing new systems. I also foresee a significant growth in the use of Support information as a base for providing information for management decision. From his survey I believe the Chairman of the Information Processing Board shares this latter conviction. I also recognize the need to weed out the marginal or less than marginal applications that inevitably get developed.

3. As you know, we are in the process of establishing Data Management Centers in Headquarters, Key and Ames Buildings. These centers provide a focal point for SIPS input and output processing. They also will provide professional assistance in ad hoc queries for information from the SIPS data base. Perhaps less visible but equally important is the fact that much of the technical systems management activity will be conducted through the Data Management Center. I consider establishment of the Data Management Centers a first step toward revising information processing management for the Directorate.

4. In my judgment the activities sketched in the preceding paragraphs strongly support a very active DD/S information processing function. Both the breadth and depth of our involvement in information processing is increasing.

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Computer hardware and its closely allied technical support can be best
managed as a service of common concern but the people engaged in providing
systems analysis, design and programming services should be managed by
the organization using those services. I believe the Support Directorate
will provide a challenging future for these people, both systems analysts
and programmers.

5. I am led to conclude, therefore, that the transfer of the
Management Support Division, Office of Computer Services, less any
positions which may be committed to other Office of Computer Services'
responsibilities, from DDS&T to DD/S is an essential step in the continuing
evolution of DD/S information processing. With your approval I will begin
discussions with the Deputy Director for Science and Technology and with
the Director of Computer Services leading to the timely transfer of the
Management Support Division to the DD/S.

(signed) John W. Coffey

John W. Coffey
Deputy Director
for Support